

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 ACDA-10 /105 W

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R 210635Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2308

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCEUR

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MU, UK

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF BRITISH DEPARTURE FROM MASIRAH AND
SALALAH AIRFIELDS

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF OMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 19, WHICH FEATURED LOCAL MEDIA NEXT DAY,
FOLLOWS:

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HM SULTAN QABOOS
HELD WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE
UNITED KINGDON, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED ON THE WITHDRAWAL
OF THE BRITISH RAF FROM MASIRAH MARCH 31, 1977 AND THE WITH-
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DRAWAL OF THE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SALALAH

AIRFIELD ON THE SAME DATE, WHEREUPON IT WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE OMANI GOVERNMENT TO ARRANGE FOR ITS OPERATION. THE AGREEMENT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RAF AND THE TERMINATION OF THE RIGHTS GRANTED THEM BY HM THE SULTAN ON MASIRAH ISLAND STEMS FROM THE REDUCED BRITISH MILITARY POWER IN THE FAR EAST, AND THE CONSEQUENT DECREASED NEED TO USE THE ISLAND, TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM MARCH 31, 1977 WITH THE EXISTING UNITS ON THE ISLAND TO BE PLACED UNDER OMANI CONTROL.

THIS WITHDRAWAL WILL NOT AFFECT THE PILOTS AND SECONDED OFFICERS FOR THE SULTAN OF OMAN'S AIR FORCE, THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHICH WILL BE CONTINUED AS LONG AS HM THE SULTAN WLSHES. AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL NOT AFFECT PRESENT OMANI-BRITISH RELATIONS OR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFITS."

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